Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02606 01 OF 02 312008Z

61/11
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-05 OMB-01 AGR-10 HEW-06 /108 W
---------- 048219
R 271145Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9339
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 2606

ANKARA PASS REGIONAL DEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, PK
SUBJ: REVIEW OF NARCOTICS PROGRAM WITH PNCB

1. SUMMARY. DURING FULL REVIEW OF NARCOTICS PROGRAM BETWEEN MISSION AND PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD (PNCB) LATTER RECOGNIZED USG CONCERN WITH PROMPT AND PROPER UTILIZATION OF EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED FOR FIUS. PNCB EXPRESSED SHOCK OVER MISSION STATEMENT THAT ACREAGE LICENSES HAD NOT BEEN ISSUED FOR CURRENT YEAR AND PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE WITH REVISION OF PRESENT SYSTEM IF NECESSARY. PNCB AGREED TO INCLUDE LINE ITEM IN COMING FY BUDGET FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL OF TRAINEES AND ENDORSED CONCEPT OF DIALOGUE TOWARD NARCOTICS-RELATED, INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION, MINFIN (EAD). END SUMMARY.

2. AT EMBASSY REQUEST A MEETING TOOK PLACE MARCH 17 BETWEEN CHAIRMAN AND ALL SENIOR CENTRAL STAFF OF PNCB AND MISSION TEAM. IN ABSENCE FROM ISLAMABAD OF DCM, TEAM LED BY USAID DIRECTOR AND INCLUDED NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, USAID ASSISTANT
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 02606 01 OF 02 312008Z

DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND DEA, SAIC. DIALOGUE WAS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

VERY FRANK AND BOTH SIDES AGREED TO FURTHER MEETINGS OF THIS TYPE. AS INTRODUCTION, PNCB CHAIRMAN SAID HE HAD TALKED WITH AMBASSADOR VANCE IN GENEVA WHO SUGGESTED PAKISTAN CONSIDER EITHER THE SUBSTITUTION OF PAPAVER BRACTAETUM FOR PAPAVER SOMNIFERUM OR ENFORCING THE TURKISH SYSTEM UTILIZING UNLANCED POPPY STRAW ONLY. THE CHAIRMAN SAW EITHER OF THESE AS WORTH CONSIDERING AS A MEANS TO "RECHANNELIZE OUR APPROACH" AND AS HAVING GREAT POTENTIAL FOR OVERCOMING PAKISTAN'S PROBLEM .

3. FIUS AND EQUIPMENT. USAID DIRECTOR NOTED THE USG DISAP-POINTMENT WITH THE LACK OF ADVANCED PLANNING AND POOR RECEPTION FACILITIES WHEN THE EQUIPMENT WE WERE SUPPLYING BEGAN TO ARRIVE IN PAKISTAN. THE CHAIRMAN RECOGNIZED THE LEGITIMATE USG CONCERN BUT REPORTED THAT THINGS WERE MOVING MORE SMOOTHLY NOW. NINETY-NINE PERCENT OF THE EQUIPMENT WAS IN COUNTRY AND HAD BEEN CLEARED THROUGH CUSTOMS. A PERT CHART DEVELOPED JOINTLY BETWEEN USAID AND PNCB HAD JUST CLEARED THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND WOULD BE RIGIDLY ADHERED TO IN ORDER TO KEEP THE PROGRAM MOVING. THE CHAIRMAN HAD EXPECTED THE LOGISTICS OFFICER TO JOIN PNCB WHILE HE WAS IN GENEVA BUT FINDS THAT THE OFFICER CHOSEN HAS A LENGTHY INVENTORY AND ACCOUNTING PROCEDURE BEFORE HE IS RELEASED FROM HIS FORMER POSITION. THE OFFICER IS EXPECTED IN PNCB WITHIN TEN DAYS. PNCB NOW FINDS ITS OFFICER CADRE AT HALD STRENGTH FOR FULL UTILIZATION OF FIU EQUIPMENT. CHAIRMAN PLANNED A MEETING THE WEEK OF MARCH 23 WITH HEADS OF OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AT WHICH TIME HE WOULD PROPOSE SECUNDMENT OF OFFICERS TO PNCB WITH OPTION TO TAKE THESE MEN ON PERMANENTLY AT LATER STAGE. THE PROGRAM PRESENTLY ENVISAGED WOULD HAVE ALL EQUIPMENT UTILIZED AT FULL STRENGTH BY JUNE 30.

4. LEGISLATION. THERE WAS NO ASSUMPTION BY PNCB OF LEGAL POWER OR ARREST AUTHORITY UPON TRANSFER OF THAT AGENCY FROM THE PLANNING MINISTRY TO THE MININT. SHORT-FORM LEGISLATION GRANTING PNCB OFFICERS THE SAME ARREST AND ENTRY AUTHORITY AS OTHER FEDERAL OFFICERS HAS BEEN CLEARED BY ALL PROVINCIAL AND CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS. IT IS NOW AT THE TOP OF CALENDARS IN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE AND WOULD BE SIGNED BY PRESIDENT WITHIN DAYS AFTER PASSAGE. TIMING WAS UNCERTAIN
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AS THE OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES HAD BOYCOTTED THE ASSEMBLY AND THE RULING PARTY ADJOURNED THE SESSION UNTIL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BETWEEN PARTIES. MOST OF THE DEPART-MENTAL AND PROVINCIAL COMMENTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED ON THE COMPREHENSIVE NARCOTICS LEGISLATION. ONCE ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED, PNCB MUST WORK WITH LAW MINISTRY AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ON REVISIONS. GOP WOULD THEN INVITE UN EXPERT NALLE BACK TO REVIEW LEGISLATION TO ASSURE NO CONFLICT WITH

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS. PNCB STAFF PREDICTED THIS
CHAIN MIGHT BE COMPLETED WITHIN SIX MONTHS. MISSION TEAM
POINTED TO IMPORTANCE OF COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION AS
EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT WAS FRUSTRATING WHEN OFFENDERS NOT
TRIED OR RECEIVE INSIGNIFICANT PENALTIES.

5. ACREAGE CONTROL. USAID DIRECTOR SAID USG "MIGHTILY
DISAPPOINTED" THAT LICENSES FOR PRODUCTION HAD NOT BEEN
ISSUED FOR CROP SOON TO BE HARVESTED. ANY FURTHER US
ASSISTANCE WOULD CERTAINLY DEPEND UPON SOME TYPE OF CREDIBLE
LICENSING PROGRAM IN THE SETTLED AREAS. CHAIRMAN SAID
THAT HE THOUGHT LICENSES HAD BEEN ISSUED. PNCB HAD INFORMED
NWFP EXCISE DEPT. IN NOVEMBER THAT PRODUCTION WAS TO BE
LICENSED AT 1971 LEVEL. THIS WOULD BE AT ABOUT 3,300
ACRES. MISSION TEAM STATED THAT ON VERY GOOD AUTHORITY.
NO LICENSES ISSUED AS OF LATE JANUARY BUT IF LICENSES
ISSUED IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SECURE LIST OF LICENSES
BY ACRE AND PLOT, TEHSIL-BY-TEHSIL. PNCB STAFF SAID THAT
NWFP EXCISE DEPT HAD EVERY LICENSED PLOT AND FARMER LISTED
SEPARATELY AND SUCH A LIST COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE. CHAIR-
MAN PROMISED INVESTIGATION OF LICENSING SITUATION AND
STEP-BY-STEP STUDY OF PRESENT PROCEDURE. IF ANY GAPS WERE
IDENTIFIED, THEY WILL BE PLUGGED.

6. AIR TRAVEL FOR TRAINING. AFTER USG POLICY ON BENEFICIARY
GOVERNMENT PAYMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COSTS FOR TRAINEES

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02606 02 OF 02 312011Z

61/43
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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-05 OMB-01 AGR-10 HEW-06 /108 W
---------- 048256
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 2606

ANKARA PASS REGIONAL DEA

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SUBJ: REVIEW OF NARCOTICS PROGRAM WITH PNCB

TO THE US, CHAIRMAN READILY AGREED TO INCLUDE A LINE ITEM IN NEXT FY BUDGET FOR THIS COST. PNCB REQUESTED LETTER FROM EMBASSY ESTIMATING NUMBER OF SLOTS LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE TO PAKISTAN DURING A FY WHICH COULD BE USED IN BUDGET JUSTIFICATION. MISSION AGREED TO DO THIS.

7. INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. USAID DIRECTOR INDICATED USG READINESS TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS OF POSSIBLE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN SWABI TEHSIL. THIS SUBJECT HAD BEEN RAISED WITH SECRETARY, MININT, AND WITH THE SECRETARY, EAD. LATTER SUGGESTED PARALLEL US AND GOP COMMITTEES UNDER HIS CHAIRMANSHIP TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE. CHAIRMAN AGREED TO THIS AS PNCB HAD NO EXPERTISE IN MOST DEVELOPMENT ISSUES. USAID DIRECTOR POINTED OUT IMPORTANCE OF PNCB PARTICIPATION, HOWEVER, AS CREDIBLE LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT WOULD BE IMPORTANT PART OF SUCH A PROGRAM. CHAIRMAN AGREED AND STATED SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE MORE THAN
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 02606 02 OF 02 312011Z

WATERWELLS. ONE REASON FOR SUCCESS OF SMUGGLERS AT PRESENT WAS THAT THEY ARE VIRTUALLY ONLY SUPPLIERS OF CREDITS TO FARMERS AT PLANTING TIME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ISLAMA02606
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750111-0597
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750310/aaaaaiyn.tel
Line Count: 205
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by RuthemTJ>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2004 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REVIEW OF NARCOTICS PROGRAM WITH PNCB
TAGS: SNAR, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006